

***Lathyrus torreyi* Gray**

Torrey's peavine
Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Status: State Threatened, USFWS Species of Concern

Rank: G5S1

General Description: Rhizomatous perennial, usually moderately villous throughout; stems 6-16 inches long, erect to decumbent, slender, angled but not winged; leaflets 10-16, paired to scattered, elliptic to ovate, 1/4 to 1/2 inch long; tendrils lacking; flowers one or two, 1/3 to 1/2 inch long; calyx 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, the teeth linear lanceolate, the lower three teeth are considerably longer than the calyx tube and nearly half again as long as the upper two; banner pale lilac to bluish-lilac or blue, 1/2 to 5/8 inch long, the claw subequal to, but considerably narrower than the well reflexed blade.

Identification Tips: Can be distinguished from other *Lathyrus* in its range by the combination of the following features: lack of a winged stem, lack of tendrils, and only 1 or 2 flowers per raceme.

Phenology: Identifiable May through July.

Range: Pierce County, WA to Santa Cruz County, CA. In WA, it occurs in the Puget Trough physiographic province.

Habitat: The only known extant occurrences in WA are within somewhat open areas within Douglas fir dominated sites within the Western Hemlock Zone of Franklin and Dyrness (1973). The sites have varying canopy cover, but all are greater than 60%. The topography of the sites is relatively gentle. Associated species include Douglas fir, sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) and blackberry (*Rubus* sp.).

Ecology: It is likely that natural disturbances, such as fire and wind-throw, helped create habitats historically. The species appears to like forest openings, especially trail edges. It forms dense patches where competition from other species is low. However, it does not appear to do well where there is significant cover of other species.

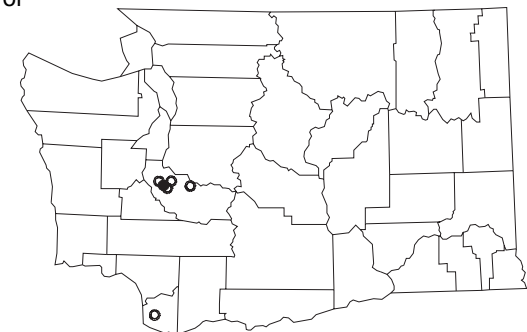
Lathyrus torreyi

Torrey's peavine



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Known distribution of
Lathyrus torreyi
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Lathyrus torreyi

Torrey's peavine



Tracy Rush



Tracy Rush

Lathyrus torreyi

Torrey's peavine

State Status Comments: There are only 2 current records in Pierce County, WA. It was thought to have been extirpated from WA as recently as 1994.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed throughout western Washington's low elevation Douglas fir forests.

Threats and Management Concerns: Timber management activities and development (urban, suburban and rural) are the primary land uses within potential habitat for this species. Timber management could be beneficial by helping to create openings. However, ground disturbance, if it occurs in the immediate location of individual plants, could be detrimental. Appropriate habitats should be inventoried prior to undertaking development, and outright conversion of known sites should be avoided.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.